

Abridgement

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OF
THE LIFE
OF
HENRY

THE GREAT,

The fourth of that name :

King of FRANCE and
NAVARRÉ.

Translated out of French.

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1637.

THE
BIBLIOTHECA



To the KING.

SIR,

I Have found an old Manuscript, which being in mine opinion both judicious and true, I made bold to print and present to your Ma^{tie}: which if with a quarter of an hours time onely you honor, in very few words you shall see the glorious life of the King your Father. This life Sir can be imitated by none but your Ma^{tie}, and can be offered you by no more faithfull witnes of it then my selfe, who not dying under the Fathers commands, have no greater ambition then to end my life in the Sons service, and deserve by well serving to be regarded by your Ma^{tie}

Sir,

as

Your most humble, most obedient,
and most faithfull subject and servant,

VIGNOLLE.

TO THE
IMMORTALL
MEMORY OF
HENRY the Great, the
 fourth of that name, King of
France and Navarre.



Vertue and for-
 tune agreed to
 title this Prince
 Great; whom
 the wonders
 of his life have
 styl'd Incom-
 parable. Hee was conceived at *la*
Fleiche, borne at *Pau*, passed his
 infancy at *Coyrase*, in sharp ayres;
 in

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in the most rustick exercises of the country, that the delicacy of his breeding might not hinder the actions of his courage. At seven yeares old hee was brought to Court, to be educated with those to whom by right and merit hee was to succeed. The tenderneffe of his first age was hardned by divers great accidents. At nine years old, the King his father dies, the Queene his mother being absent, his Uncle in disgrace, his friends in distrust, and his servants in exile. At thirteene he leaves the Court, and to obey his mother, the religion wherein hee was bred. At sixteene he is made head of a party, whose hopes being cast downe

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downe by the losse of foure bat-
tels, relevated themselves under
the favour of his armes, and hap-
pinesse of his presence. At nine-
teene he was intangled in a truly
funerall wedding, which began
with the unexpected death of his
mother, and was followed by the
losse of his liberty, death and pro-
scription of his. At twenty three
he was freed from that captivity,
to enter into the ordinary servitude
of those who command in civill
warres. He was often constrained
to make necessity a vertue, and to
entertaine his army, even by his
army. The dignity of Generall
dispenc'd him not from the dan-
gers of a common souldier, untill
he

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he had made his party safe by the
fift edict of peace. At thirty one
the death of the Kings onely bro-
ther raised him to the neereſt de-
gree of the Crowne. The *Flowers*
de luce turne towards him and ſa-
lute him, as the Sunne riſing of
France. All at once this great calm
which they enjoyed, changeth in-
to a terrible ſtorme, which pou-
red on him in five yeares ten roy-
all armies. The battell of *Contras*
the orient of his hopes, manifeſted
that he ought to be fear'd by thoſe
who lov'd him not. Yet the pro-
ſperity of his affaires bereaved him
neither of feeling the publique mi-
series, nor of griefe to ſee himſelfe
conſtrain'd to vex his King, to
whom

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whom heretofore he had offered his person and friends. The Tragedy, whereof he was made the argument, *France* the theater, and strangers the authors, was fearefully concluded by the death of two Princes, which filled the Kingdome with fire and bloud. The King being surprized at *Tours*, was so happily relieved by him, that three moneths after he had entred victorious into his capitall City, but for that execrable parricide that ended his life. Then the true French being quite desolate, apprehending for one King divers Tyrants, and acknowledging the just cause of their lawfull King, cast themselves
into

into his armes. He seeing the most powerfull forces of *Europe* banded against him, the rebels insolent, and the good subjects astonished, makes as many combats as treaties, as many sieges as lodgings. He digests in his Cabinet incredible griefes and perplexities, and overcomes in the field infinite dangers. *Diep* receiving him, serves for an example of obedience, *Arques* declares him invincible. *Paris* believing him vanquished, was terrified to see him at her gates. *Vendosme*, *le Mans*, *Lizieux*, *Evreux*, *Alençon*, *Verneuil*, *Flan-fleur* are carryed away by the current of his armes. *Meulan* owes her safety to his helpe, *Ivry* elevates

vates his crowne by a renowned victory, *Mantes* and *Vernon* open their gates to him, *Melun* receives chastisement for her temerity, *S. Denis* is forced to yeeld, which the enemy taking, is there taken and killed. *Paris* had beene lost, had hee not fear'd to lose it. *Corbeil* by her losse ruines the enemyes army, and by him being presently re-taken, manifests his diligence. *Longeval* admires his conduct, *Chartres* his perseverance, *Noyon* his courage, *Louuiers* his vigilancie, *Amale* is a witnessse of the bloud which hee spends for the safety of his. *Rouen* reduced to extremity, sees him meet his enemies to fight with them,

them, *Ivetot* disorders them, *Cau-*
debecq covers their flight, *Esspagnay*
 advances, and *Dreux* augments
 the shame of it. All the forc'd
 townes publish his power, they
 rendred his faith, they surpriz'd
 his goodnesse. Never beaten, Al-
 wayes victorious. His palmes
 flourish in the Provinces, under
 the reputation of his armes, and
 the good fortune of his com-
 mands. The same day that his
 presence gave life to them at *Ivry*,
 his power produceth them at
Issoire, they stretch forth even to
Grenoble, and further draw *Aix*
 from out the servitude she sought,
 and confirme the fidelity of *Bour-*
deaux and *Rennes*. Under their
 shadow

shadow doe happily succeed the battels at *Poncharra*, *Vignon*, *Beaumont*, and *Villenor*. All *France* being filled with the glory of his exploits, confesseth, that what he could or hath not done, is unknowne or impossible to any other. God who conducted him by the hand to the Throne of his Fathers, fortifies his soule by a singular fore-sight, to break the new designs which rendred the divisions of *France* immortall. Hee addes to his victories that of himselfe. Stretcheth his armes to the truth, acknowledgeth the Church, the sacred monument of his Predecessors are witnesse of the sincerity of this action, and is sacred
and

and crowned *Most Christian King*, in the most ancient Temple of the Christian world. At that change, the pretext which had filled the wicked with audacity, and the good with feare, vanisht. The Angel guardian of Kings saves him from a damnable and enormous attempt on his person. *Meaux, Lions, Orleans, Bourges*, acknowledging him, confirme themselves in their first fidelity. He takes *Paris*, makes her sensible of the effects of his clemency, safety and felicity enter, justice is re-established, and the authority which sedition had taken from her, is restored. Hee permits the forraigne forces to issue, armed to
the

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the glory of his generosity, who knowes neither how to feare nor hate his enemies. *Rouen* frees her selfe from their yoake, *Laon* is their sepulture, The townes which followed the greatest in their revolt, imitate them in obedience. *Troyes*, *Sens*, *Agen*, *Charteauthierry*, *Poitiers*, *Peronne*, *Amyens*, *Beauvais*, *Reims*, *S. Malo*, come and offer him the tables of the shipwrack they escaped. Every where he abolisheth the remembrance of his own injuries, sweetens the resentment of the publick, and amongst so many proofes of a royally generous and debonnaire minde, carefully cherished by heaven, Hell raiseth in *Paris* a monstrous one,

B who

who hurting him with an execrable knife, leaves on his royall mouth, the mark of the unhappy designe it had against his life. Hee darts the fire of warre into the Estates of those who were pleased with the embrazement of *France*. *Luxemburg*, *Artois*, *Piedmont*, *Savoy*, and *Bresse*, have tryed what an offended patience can doe, under a great power. *Dijon* renders her selfe under his obedience, drawes thither all *Burgundy*, *Fontaine Françoise*, constraines the enemies army to sacrifice his pride at the feet of his valor. He enters the *Franche-Comte*, that hath nothing against him, but the remaines of his trophyes. *Rome* receives him, changeth

geth her anathomae into blessings, acknowledgeth him the eldest sonne of the Church; his heart being the Temple, and his mouth the oracle of truth, hee induceth his greatest enemies to trust to his word. He happily finisheth the civill warres, drownes in the sea of his clemency all things past, Changerh punishments into recompences, Pacifies *Provençe*, Daunts the obstinacy of *la Fere*, *Tholonze* who seem'd to have lost the remembrance of her first being, resolves to regaine it, *Marseille* recovers her liberty by the death of the author of her servitude. Hee convokes an Assembly at *Rouen*, that he might provide by the ad-

vice of many, for the good of all. *Spaine* knowing by the regaining of *Amiens*; that impossibilities yeelded to the justice of his armes, asks peace by the mediation of the Common Father of Christians, and to obtaine it, forsakes all the profit of the warre. *Brittanny* followes the good fortune of his victories. He confirms the edicts, which assure the rest of his Kingdome, to perfect the Peace. He leades his armes into the *Alpes*, *Montmelliam* trembles to see him, *Piedmont* becomes a Frontiere, *Millan* is afraid to be so, *Italy* is astonish't, but hee declares, that hee is armed but to recover his owne, resistance hinders not the prosperity

prosperity of his conquests, his pure zeale for the publique rest, stops the course of his designs. He returnes triumphant, Marryes the most Illustrious Princessse MARY, whom heaven had declared Queene of Vertues, before she was saluted Queene of *France*, and the blessing it bestowes at this marriage, serve to crowne the former; and render the *Flower de luces* eternall. The severity of his justice was not yet known, when the insupportable contempt of his goodnesse incited and constrained him to lose what hee could not amend, punishment to one onely, feare to many, and to all the example. He dissipates the malignant influ.

influences prepared to trouble the State, and subverts the intents of those, who having not made warre to get peace, would disturb the peace to renew the warre. His diligence cur'd the ulcers which carelesnesse had rendred incurable. He comes, he sees, he triumphs. *Sedae* unable to suffer the lightning of this thunder, shall convince the temerity of those who will abide the clap. His glorious name gets so much authority, that his will is receiv'd for a law, and his counsels for infallible precepts. The Conclave respects them, *Italy* honors them, the Low-Countries submit to them; And under the happy auspices of this peace,
 he

he enjoyes the rest which he hath
 given to all, with the price of his
 bloud, and of thirty five yeares of
 his life. He keeps united divided
 spirits, tempers passions, restores
 sciencis, calls back by edict the
 exil'd, by decrees repaires the ru-
 ines of warre, ends the great and
 sumptuous designs of his Prede-
 cessors, beautifies *France* with new
 structures, both usefull and neces-
 sary causeth trade and arts to flou-
 rish, so that it seemes *France* was
 cast downe by the enemies hands,
 but to elevate it selfe higher by his
 victories. Alwaies *August*, fear'd
 and lov'd. From him sixe royall
 plants did spring forth, which hea-
 ven ordained for the good and
 glory

glory of his Crowne. [Three sons, of which the eldest proves himselfe the true Inheritor of his Fathers greatness and vertue: the second his follower to a heavenly inheritance: The third remains his brothers most worthy second. The other three tendrest and sweetest Lillies, have by their beautifull lustre ravished all eyes, and by their virtuous odor rejoyced the hearts of all the world: The youngest causing a continuall Spring in Great Brittain, The eldest a pleasant qualification of the heat of Hesperia, and the Middlemost an agreeable aspect of the rudest rocks in Piedmont.] Hee manifestes his piety, shews his magnificence in his buildings, his providence in his revenues, his liberality in his pen.

pensions, his judgement in his
 choice of men, his vivacity in his
 answers, his magnanimity in acci-
 dents, his faith towards his allyes,
 his moderation at all times, his
 prudence in all things, his justice
 towards all men. Invincible in la-
 bour, Never idle. His royall haire
 is not growne white but with
 watching and experience. The
 Lawrels which crown his head,
 were gathered in the victorious
 field of three set battels, of thirty
 five encounters, of one hundred
 and forty combats, wherein hee
 fought with his hand, and in three
 hundred sieges. And of all these is
 formed the great renowne, which
 by the singular providence of
 God,

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God, makes him Protector of the
Publick tranquillity, Restorer of
the State, Ornament of the
Church, Arbitrator of Chri-
stendome, and the De-
light of the
world.

AT Ivry, Coutras, Arques
immortall fame shall sing
The courage, fortune, right,
of this most valiant King:
And stoutest strangers proud,
doe quake for very feare,
When of the fights of Coutras,
Ivry, Arques they beare.

F I N I S.